

Message Text

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42

ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-03 ISO-00 /004 W

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R 131158Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8659

UNCLAS LONDON 03170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UK (MCFARLAND, DOUGLAS)

SUBJ: CHILD CUSTODY CASE

REF: LONDON 1279 OF JAN 29, 1974

1. VISAS LEOPARD FURTHER TO INTEREST OF CONGRESSMAN MANUEL LUJAN, JR., IN CASE OF DOUGLAS MCFARLAND, P2-2, JULY 31, 1973, RHODESIA. WE HAVE SCHEDULED ANOTHER IMMIGRANT VISA APPOINTMENT, ON APRIL 1 FOR SUBJECT. BECAUSE THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONTINUING AND UNRESOLVED DISPUTE BETWEEN PARENTS REGARDING DOUGLAS' CARE AND CUSTODY, WE HAVE ADVISED FATHER HE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE THAT HE HAS LEGAL CUSTODY. MOTHER STATES SHE IS SEEKING DIVORCE AND LEGAL CUSTODY THROUGH COURTS IN RHODESIA. APPARENTLY, NEITHER, PARENT HAS SOLE LEGAL CUSTODY AS OF NOW. MOTHER HAS JUST WRITTEN STATING OBJECTION TO DOUGLAS' IMMIGRATION TO U.S. BUT WOULD APPROVE ISSUANCE OF VISITOR'S VISA PROVIDED HE REMAIN IN U.S. ONLY FOR SHORT STIPULATED PERIOD. WE HAVE REPLIED (WITH COPY TO HUSBAND) THAT DOUGLAS IS CONSIDERED INTENDING IMMIGRANT AND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR VISITOR'S VISA AND FURTHER THAT IF HE WERE WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO CONTROL HIS STAY. WE FURTHER ADVISED MOTHER THAT IF SHE WANTED TO PREVENT DOUGLAS' IMMIGRATION TO U.S. SHE MUST TAKE LEGAL STEPS WITH APPROPRIATE U.K. AUTHORITIES. ALTHOUGH THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF UK PUBLIC INTEREST LATELY IN CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES, U.K. AUTHORITIES WILL NOT TAKE ACTION UNLESS CHILD

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BECOMES PUBLIC CHARGE, IS ABANDONED, IS ABUSED OR

UNLESS ONE OR BOTH PARENTS SEEK LEGAL ACTION.

3. EMBASSY WILL AND CAN NOT ACT AS "ARBITER" FOR
EITHER PARTY. PARENTS MUST RESOLVE QUESTION THEMSELVES
OR SEEK LEGAL ACTION IN U.K. WHERE CHILD RESIDES.

4. SUGGEST CONG. LUJAN ADVISE FATHER OF ABOVE INFO
SO HE MAY BE PREPARED SHOULD MOTHER SEEK UK LEGAL
RESTRAINT TO PREVENT DOUGLAS' DEPARTURE FROM U.K.

SOHM

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